GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3056
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
FREIGHTERS OF AI CARGO
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the fleet of dedicated freighters of Air India (AI) Cargo;

(b) if so, the details of the cargo handled so far by the company;

(c) whether the company has tied up with Gati and other private operators;

(d) if so, the details and the terms and conditions fixed with each of such operators;

(e) the details of targets fixed by Air India Cargo for 2007-08; and

(f) the details of steps taken to achieve such targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The total cargo carried by erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines during the year 2006-07 was 170,603 tons. Further, 15,582 tons of mail was also carried.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. NACIL into which Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited have merged, has tied up with Gati as well as Department of Post & Telegraph (DOP). NACIL signed an Agreement with Gati on 16 May, 2007 for five aircraft for a period of five years to operate freighter services on Delhi-Mumbai-Bangalore-Delhi sector and with DOP for one aircraft for one year to operate freighter service on Kolkata - Guwahati -Imphal-Agartala sector.

(e): The revenue target fixed for the year 2007-08 by Air India cargo is Rs. 834.32 crores.

(f): Air India cargo is taking various steps in order to achieve the above target which includes (i)after merger of erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines, Air India is able to provide combined services to their clients in a more efficient and aggressive manner; (ii) Air India is now able to extend an improved product to their customers by providing seamless connectivity for movement of cargo from interior points within the country to international destinations through gateway points; (iii) Air India is exploring the possibility of extending the service to their agents based abroad and have commenced this process in a phased manner; and (iv) Air India is trying for the business of postal unions of various countries and is in talks with the US Postal Mail so as to promote the movement of their mail on its services.